(c) the prospects foreign private equity in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

LTC Bills of Government Employees

2940. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the TA/LTC bills of Government employees who perform journey by private airlines are being rejected on the ground that they should have performed journey by Indian Airlines even though their claim is restricted to rail fare and no financial implication is involved;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Flexi/Apex/Bidding Fares of private airlines are less than the fares of Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As per Supplementary Rules, travel at Government cost is to be performed by machines of public air transport companies only. It is only when the public sector air carriers do not ply on a particular route that the journey can be performed by Private Airlines. Although private carriers are giving many incentives yet with a view to patronize public sector air carriers it has been made mandatory for Government officers to travel by public sector air carriers at Government cost.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

†2941. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of State Bank of India in Himachal Pradesh who died in harness during 2001-2002;

(b) whether their dependants have been given employment on compassionate ground if so, the names of such persons, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the dependants of the employees of UCO Bank at Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, who died in harness, got the employment on compassionate ground, if so, the names, designation and place of appointment of those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that five of its employees died in harness during 2001-02 in Himachal Pradesh, out of which the dependants of two employees were given appointment on compassionate grounds. Their names are—

1. Smt. Vidya Devi, Wife of late Shri Karan Singh, Assistant, Rait Branch.
2. Smt. Guddi Devi, Wife of late Shri Hira Lal, Sweeper, Gondla Branch.

The Bank has further reported that the other three cases did not fulfil the prescribed criteria and hence, were rejected.

(c) UCO Bank has reported that four dependants of its employees who died in harness since April 2001 till date have been appointed by the bank on compassionate grounds in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. Names, designations and place of appointment of these persons are as follows:—

1. Smt. Vijay Sharma, Clerk, HPMIDC Shimla Branch.
2. Shri Alok Kumar Jain, Clerk, Koraon (Varanasi) Branch.
3. Smt. Suman Lata Sharma, Clerk, Ghurani Kalan Branch.
4. Shri Manoj Kumar, Clerk, Ghurani Kalan Branch.

The bank has further reported that two more such cases have been accorded sanction for appointment as Clerk subject to their suitability in the interview.

Heads of IRDA

2942. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether heads of different regulatory authorities in India like Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority are bureaucrats;